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# CURRENT LITERATURE.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

### The trees of North America

PROFESSOR SARGENT<sup>1</sup> has brought into a convenient volume the information concerning the trees of North America that is much more elaborated in his *Silva*. The sequence is that of ENGLER and PRANTL'S *Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*. Especial attention has been given to the construction of simple analytical keys, so that a species may be determined with the minimum of trouble. For example, the key to the families is based on the arrangement and character of the leaves; and in the same way genera and species are reached by the important and easily discovered contrasting characters. Each of the 630 or more species is further made clear by the admirable illustrations of Mr. C. E. FAXON, showing the leaves, flowers, and fruits. There is no reason why this manual should not become at once extensively used by all those interested in trees, a constituency that extends far beyond the boundary of professional botanists.—J. M. C.

### Organic evolution

A RECENT BOOK by Professor METCALF<sup>2</sup> presents in a clear and simple style the fundamental principles of organic evolution in a form very well adapted to the needs of the general reader and to those who wish an outline of the theory of Darwinism. The standpoint is clearly that of the Neo-Darwinist, and the main topics the familiar ones of adherents of this school. Perhaps the most striking feature of the book is the wealth of clear and very well selected illustrations, a large proportion of which are presented for the first time in a general text of this character. These give to the work a character quite its own, and in themselves justify a book which in its general outlines follows very closely the subject-matter and method of presentation in several popular accounts of evolution, including those of WALLACE and ROMANES. The subject-matter is chiefly zoological, and the book would hardly claim an extensive treatment of the principles of plant evolution.—B. M. DAVIS.

### MINOR NOTICES.

THE REPORT for 1904 of the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Dr. GALLOWAY, is commended to the perusal of all botanists that they keep in touch with the botanical work in progress under this Bureau of the Department of

<sup>1</sup> SARGENT, CHARLES SPRAGUE, Manual of the trees of North America (exclusive of Mexico). Imp. 8vo. pp. xxiii+826. *figs.* 640. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1905. \$6.00.

<sup>2</sup> METCALF, M. M., An outline of the theory of organic evolution. Imp. 8vo. pp. 204. *pls.* 101. *figs.* 46. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1904.

Agriculture. It is impossible here to summarize the report, itself a summary. Certainly every American who understands the past success and future plans of this bureau must feel proud that our government is thus leading the world in turning applied botany, based upon researches by a capable staff, to the production of wealth and comfort for the people. As a mere matter of dollars and cents, any one of a dozen or more discoveries made or practically applied by this bureau recently will add to the annual income from our fields and gardens more than the whole bureau has cost from its beginning. The report is a concise and clear showing that will interest all and will surprise those who have not followed closely the recent developments.—C. R. B.

THE BULLETIN from the laboratories of natural history of the State University of Iowa contains in its last issue (Vol. V, no. 4) two botanical papers on the local flora, viz., *The flora of the St. Peter sandstone in Winneshiek Co., Iowa*, by Professor B. SHIMEK: and *The Discomycetes of eastern Iowa*, by FRED J. SEAVER. In the latter, out of nearly one hundred species collected in the state, about fifty are described and illustrated in twenty-five plates, the remainder being reserved for further study. No new species are described.—C. R. B.

THE SECOND ANNUAL ISSUE of the volume on Botany of the *International Catalogue of Scientific Literature*<sup>3</sup> was published in December last, the manuscript having been completed in March 1904. There is no occasion to explain the scope and quality of this publication, for it has already been extensively reviewed,<sup>4</sup> and the opinions of botanists concerning it have become well settled.—J. M. C.

J. PERKINS<sup>5</sup> has issued the third fascicle of contributions to the flora of the Philippines. The collaborators are as follows: C. DE CANDOLLE, Piperaceae; J. PERKINS, Rutaceae; O. WARBURG, Ulmaceae, Moraceae, Urticaceae, Balanophoraceae, Aristolochiaceae, Magnoliaceae, Thymelaeaceae, Ericaceae, and Ficus; E. B. COPELAND, Ferns (38 n. spp. and *Christopteris*, n. gen.).—J. M. C.

## NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

RECENT STUDIES IN HYBRIDIZATION.—The literature of Mendelian inheritance has been enriched by the appearance of several important recent papers. TSCHERMAK<sup>6</sup> gives an account of further studies in the hybridization of peas, stocks (*Matthiola*), beans, etc., which have given him so many noteworthy results reported in earlier contributions. The great amount of interesting detail makes adequate review impossible in a short note. "Kreuzungsnova," which have

<sup>3</sup> International Catalogue of Scientific Literature. M. Botany. 2d annual issue. 8vo. pp. 1111. London: Harrison & Sons, 45 St. Martin's Lane. 1904. 37s. 6d.

<sup>4</sup> BOT. GAZETTE 34:455. 1902.

<sup>5</sup> PERKINS, J., Fragmenta Florae Philippinae. Fasc. III. pp. 153-212. pl. 4. Leipzig: Gebrüder Borntraeger. 1905. M5.

<sup>6</sup> TSCHERMAK, E., Weitere Kreuzungsstudien an Erbsen, Leukojeu und Bohnen. Zeits. Landw. Versuchsw. 7:533-638. 1904.